

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY - ORIGINAL APPLICATION

Attorney's Docket No.
201-0763

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor or an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter that is claimed for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

A TAILGATE ASSEMBLY

the specification of which is attached hereto.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified above, including the claims.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware that is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Section 1.56(a), Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and as to application for patents or inventor's certificate on the invention filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns,

☒ [x] no such applications have been filed, or☐ [] such applications have been filed as follows:☐ [] I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (month, day, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers on a supp priority da PTO/SB/C attached I

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which is available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
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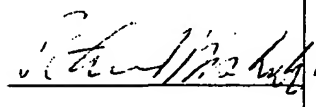
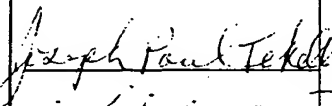
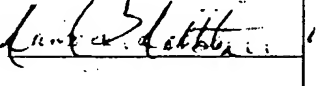
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
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POWER OF ATTORNEY: - I/we hereby appoint the following Practitioners: Customer No. 28804, John G. Chupa - 33, my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and all foreign Patent Offices.

Address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

John G. Chupa
Chupa & Alberti, P.C.
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Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Phone: 1-248-865-9588

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Keith Alan Kuzmich 1701 Robell Dr. Commerce Twp., MI 48390 US	Commerce Twp., MI 48390 US	U.S.A	Keith A. Kuzmich	91

PATENT APPLICATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

Case Docket No. **201-0763**
Date: October 23, 2002

Sir:

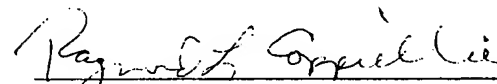
Inventor(s):

Peter Miskech
Joseph Tekelly
David Dahlstrom
Keith Kuzmich

For: **A TAILGATE ASSEMBLY**

The attorney or agent below has reviewed this application and its attachments and consents to electronic filing by the assignee.

Respectfully submitted:



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1449B/PTO Rev. 10/95		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/065,493
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	Peter Miskech
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	201-0763

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Cited Document MM-DD-YY	Pages, Columns, L Where Relevant Pass Relevant Figures A
	1.	5,938,272		Jurica et al.	08/17/1999	
	2.	6,128,815		Jurica et al.	10/10/2000	
	3.	6,170,905 B1		Joseph Jurica	01/09/2001	
	4.	5,730,486		Joseph Jurica	03/24/1998	
	5.	5,575,525		Walworth et al.	11/19/1996	
	6.	4,984,673		Saito et al.	11/15/1991	
	7.	4,188,058		Resa et al.	02/12/1980	
	8.	6,308,411 B1		Wright et al.	10/30/2001	
	9.	6,142,549		Clare et al.	11/07/2000	
	10	5,664,451		Shultz et al.	09/09/1997	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Office	Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Cited Document MM-DD-YY	Pages, Color Where Relevant Relevant Fig.
	1.		WO 01/66301 A1		Pullman Industries, Inc.	09/13/2001	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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(Information Disclosure Statement – Section 2. FORM 1449A/PTO [6-1] – page ____ of ____)